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Home
Ideas

about 4-H Clubs and Y M W



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Federal Extension Service

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 22

Washington 25, D. C.

CHRISTMAS 1955

Dear Coworkers:

Hope came to the children of God in a weary world. A man, now immortal, personalized that hope - - - made it a living, breathing, vital thing. He gave reason to the glad and faith to the sad. He gave to the weak and the sick. He gave to kings and potentates. He gave to each in accordance with his needs. What more is there to give and share, on earth or anywhere, than hope and faith?

One more there is. You know it well, you readers of this humble line. You share your charity with all mankind. You listen for the voice that says, I would follow that way, too. I need your help, your counsel, your advice.



It is charity that you give today when you kindle a flame and show the way - - - to help some child - - - as before you, Christ.

A. OTHER INSPIRING 4-H CLUB CONGRESS

The Thirty-Fourth Annual Congress was another inspiring event, both to the delegates, leaders, and guests who participated, and also to the countless persons who shared some of the stories of 4-H achievement by press, radio and TV.

We have nothing but praise for the numerous committees who worked hard, for the donors who were gracious in their hospitality, and especially for the staff of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. A whole year of hard work by that staff is mirrored in the precisely-worked out arrangements that make for the smooth functioning of this mammoth occasion.

Even as the 1955 Congress was in progress, members of your Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work were considering ways for all concerned to work together for improved 4-H programs in the period ahead.

A report of the committee which judged the 1955 records of the young men and women attending the Congress is enclosed for your use. This report was accepted by the Subcommittee at its November meeting and authorized for distribution.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 4-H CLUB WEEK (March 3 to 11)

Several committee meetings have already been held here to work out plans for materials to supplement those prepared in the States. A summary will be sent to you soon.

The January issue of the Extension Service Review will carry stories of representative counties that did a good job of promoting the Week in 1955.

As announced at Club Congress, the six young people listed below were chosen to make a personal report to national leaders next March.

Achievement: Angela Heine, North Dakota
Franklin McKay, New Mexico

Citizenship. Nellie McClure, Tennessee
William C. Thiesenhusen,
Wisconsin

Leadership: Ann Guindon, South Dakota
Eldon Rebhorn, Illinois

BURNING OF THE 4-H CENTER MORTGAGE

A "red letter" day for 4-H was November 16 when Director J. O. Knap, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National 4-H Club Foundation, burned the mortgage to the National 4-H Club Center. The mortgage-burning ceremony highlighted the annual breakfast meeting of the National Policy Board of the 4-H Foundation, held in connection with the Land-Grant College meetings.

4-H Center pioneers who were there in person to share the important event were President R. F. Poole of South Carolina, Director "Bill" Sutton of Georgia, Ray Turner, a former member of the Federal 4-H staff, and Ed Aiton. Other pioneers, honored in absentia, were Miss Gertrude L. Warren, A. G. Kettunen, Russell Thackrey, Walter Conway, former Director Walter Brown, and A. L. Hoefer. Two 4-H Club members from Michigan were master and mistress of ceremonies.

CITIZENSHIP IMPROVEMENT STUDY

The Technical Advisory Committee on the Citizenship Improvement Study met November 19, with Dr. Glenn Dildine, to review progress and to make future plans. Its four major agenda items concerned:

1. A definition of citizenship
2. Progress report on the work being done in the pilot States (Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, Texas, Puerto Rico)
3. Ways of helping agent-researchers collect dependable, pertinent data from diary records of happenings in their pilot clubs and communities.
4. Enlargement of staff to provide for consultative service to States as they proceed with the Citizenship Improvement Study.

WELCOME TO RETURNING IFYE'S AND EXCHANGEES

The largest group of returning IFYE delegates for the summer program arrived home in mid-November. The group included 52 young men and women from 26 States, who had been in 16 countries of Europe. Some of our staff had the thrilling opportunity of helping to greet them upon arrival in New York City and some of the rest of the staff were on hand for the special report meeting on November 18 in Washington, where 15 of the delegates summarized the experiences of the group.

Another inspiring opportunity was to share the evaluation session on November 22, when IFYE Exchange participants from India, the Middle East, and Latin American countries told of their opportunities. The latter group included the 16 young women from India and Middle East who were particularly interested in Home Economics Extension, and who are the first girl exchangees from their respective countries.

PROGRAM PROJECTION

We notice the many fine ways State 4-H Club staffs are a part of the current emphasis in program projection. Four states which have prepared good materials along this line are Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin. If there are others, we would appreciate having your materials, too.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR STATE 4-H STAFF MEMBERS

All States have their own methods for planning together and many list and circulate the areas of assignments for various staff members. Several listings we have seen recently are from Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Montana, California. You may like to see their plan for sharing responsibilities.

CAMP FIRE GIRLS TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Anna Searl, Illinois, represented 4-H Club work at the Camp Fire Girls Triennial Conference, held in November in Chicago. The theme, "Let Freedom Ring," was featured throughout the program.

4-H AT NATIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

A. G. Kettunen, Michigan, Verne Varney, Wisconsin, and Erma Cottingham, Ill. attended the National Safety Congress, October 17-20. Some 20 4-H members and leaders attended the youth section of the Farm Safety Conference. Many told of their own 4-H safety programs and learned new ideas from others.

NEW ENGLAND CLUB AGENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE October 7-9 meetings of the New England Club Agents' Association centered about a closer look at programs for older 4-H members. Weather and color were at their best for an inspiring setting at Jackson, New Hampshire, and Sunday morning on Mt. Washington was inspiring. C. B. Wadleigh, Ruth Weston, John Merchant, Horace Jones and C. C. Lang participated.

ATLANTIC RURAL EXPOSITION - Agencies Plan Together - Work Together

There are few better examples of two youth-serving agencies working together than that displayed at the Atlantic Rural Exposition in Richmond, Va. Thanks to the vision and cooperativeness of the Virginia State 4-H Staff and the State Supervisors of Vocational Agriculture, a very fine interstate program was possible. There were separate 4-H Club and F.F.A. competitive events. However, the united planning, the joint tours, the get-acquainted activities, and youth banquet made it an inspiring occasion for all who participated.

KINDRED GROUP ON 4-H CAMPING

Many State Extension workers have indicated interest in the Kindred Group on 4-H Camping, which functions in relation to the American Camping Association. The annual meeting of the Association is to be held February 15-18 at Detroit, Michigan.

The 4-H Recreation Committee recommended that the Kindred Group on 4-H Camping focus attention on Camp standards and their application to 4-H Camps. In accepting this recommendation, the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work asked that Arden Peterson of Michigan be chairman of the program at Detroit.

Arden Peterson reports that two very excellent speakers will appear on the afternoon program, February 15, and the morning program of February 16. Dr. Paul A. Miller, Director of Extension at Michigan State University, will lecture and lead a discussion on "Objectives of 4-H Camping", and Dr. Ray Carlson, Associate Professor of Recreation, will speak on "Standards for 4-H Camping." An opportunity for a discussion session on Program Schedule for 4-H Camps will also be provided in the Kindred Group meeting.

4-H FELLOWSHIPS

Again this year, we are enjoying our association with the six 4-H Fellows who came to U.S.D.A. in September. As we observe their experiences, we are prompted to urge you to look over your own young staff members and other alert young men and women for potential candidates.

As you know, details of the fellowship plan are announced through the Division of Extension Research and Training. You will want to note the scholastic and other qualifications required of the candidates.

"THE TOWN THAT CAME BACK"

We are surprised and pleased to note the exceptionally wide use that has been made of this 4-H movie since its premiere showing just a year ago at Club Congress. Actually, we can quote exact figures for only a six months' period for which reports have been tabulated - but in that time 3,313 showings have been made to 254,574 persons. In addition the film has been used for 58 TV showings. The total year's figures would likely be double those numbers. Thank you for your prompt response in returning the questionnaire sent out on this subject with September "Ideas".

There are 196 prints of this film now in circulation. Fifty-two have been purchased, and 144 of the prints are being distributed through the Ford Film Library.

MORE AND MORE 4-H'ERS IN CANADA

"Jim" Moore of the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs sent the good word that Canada now has 72,784 4-H members, a sizable increase over last year. The average age of the members is 13.2 years and the average membership per club is 14.7 members, not too unlike our own figures. Boys in the Canadian program exceed the girls by 640 members. Main projects are in the areas of home economics (including gardening), livestock, and field crops.

ALABAMA HONORS BASIL O'CONNOR

We were very glad to receive a copy of the citation which was presented to Basil O'Connor by the 4-H Clubs of Alabama, making him an honorary 4-H member. The parchment certificate headed "Accent on Youth" noted the great strides made in conquering polio and commended Mr. O'Connor for his contribution as president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, and the International Poliomyelitis Congress. Linda McCombs, State 4-H Club Council Secretary, made the presentation. This was especially appropriate since Linda herself had had an attack of polio some years ago.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WISCONSIN

The six minutes on the "Wide, Wide World" television program Sunday, November 13, was seen by millions. About 400 club members went to the Wisconsin campus and performed for a live pick-up. Thanks for a job well done go to Verne Varney, Maurice White, and their associates.

REQUEST FOR 4-H STORIES

We are always in need of heart-warming stories about the results of 4-H Club work. The following is a good example of the type. It comes close to the farm and home development idea. The North Carolina Extension Farm-News titled this one "Boy's Garden Supports Family". Here, quickly, are the facts related:

"Does a garden really pay off? Ask Bennie Martin, 16-year-old Negro 4-H'er of Rockingham, Route 1, and you'll get an emphatic 'yes.' Richmond County Negro Agent S. N. Shelton says that young Martin lives with his ailing grandmother and as he says, 'Grandmama wasn't able to do any work this spring.' Since Bennie was the only person home old enough to do any work, he decided to take a garden project to help feed the family.

"Shelton says that Bennie raised at least 20 different vegetables in his garden. There was not only enough to eat, there was some extra for canning. Incidentally, Bennie bashfully admits that he even did the canning--by his grandmother's directions.

"This enterprising teen-ager says his grandmother thinks he's too young to handle the farm, but he has different ideas. Next year he plans to raise some cotton and also some hens. He plans to sell eggs in nearby Rockingham and Hamlet."

FOOD PRESERVATION MATERIAL NEEDED

Several states are planning to revitalize their food preservation project materials. So that our files may be kept up to date with current literature, we shall appreciate receiving two copies of each of the literature for 4-H Club members and leaders in use in your State.

GUIDING PHILOSOPHY FOR FUTURE HOMEMAKERS

We are impressed by the far-sighted editorial by Miss Edna P. Amidon in "Teen Times", the publication of the Future Homemakers, and asked permission to quote part of it for you here. You, no doubt, know of Miss Amidon's long years of service in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and of her relationship as chairman of the National Advisory Board to guide the Future Homemakers of America. We quote:

"These threads are beliefs which have influenced all practices of the organization. From the beginning we have believed:

"That each individual member counts, that he should have a chance to help make decisions, to carry responsibility, and to share the joy and satisfaction of working in a team toward goals important to him and to his family today and tomorrow.

"That youth and adults can work together, each making his special contribution, without the domination of either group.

"That the Future Homemakers of America can provide a good means for developing attitudes toward people, and habits of action important to successful democratic family and community living.

"That it can demonstrate the value of cooperative ways of working in homes and communities.

"That in the Future Homemakers of America young people can come to understand how communities influence homes, how homes influence communities, and how together they can bring about changes for home and community betterment.

"As we have worked through these 10 years we have learned how the national organization can draw its leadership from its many members working in State and local groups. We have learned:

"That projects suggested at State and national levels, when representing the interest of members, can spread ideas far and wide and can be carried out successfully in a thousand different ways.

"That State and national programs of work can be helpful to members and advisers only if they have been built from ideas from many localities.

"That district, State, and national meetings can be of different types and sizes, and be good when all who attend help in planning and carrying them out.

"That special leadership training and experience help develop understanding attitudes, and skills that are useful all through life."

SHARING GOOD 4-H IDEAS FROM THE STATES

CALIFORNIA - Survey of 4-H Potential

Fresno County directed a recent survey to school superintendents and principals to determine the number of boys and girls of 4-H age. The returns not only gave valuable information of 4-H enrollment potential but brought Club work to the attention of many fine school people and elicited many valuable suggestions about strengthening the 4-H program.

COLORADO - Beef Marketing Day

The third annual beef marketing day had the purpose of showing boys and girls the steps in central market operations. In addition, they visited with commission company representatives to discuss grade, quality and value. When the cattle were sold, each owner followed his animal to the scales to see it weighed and then called for his check.

IDAHO - Leader Training

A series of eight meetings in December will feature objectives and methods of youth-training programs. Club leaders with long service will receive recognition.

KANSAS - 4-H and Balanced Farming

Participation in the soil and water conservation project is advocated as a way for 4-H members to help their family achieve the first two of the 10 standards of measurement in the Balanced Farming and Family Living program of the Kansas Extension Service. First point in the program of farm and family planning is stopping soil erosion; the second point is building up the cropland of the farm.

MASSACHUSETTS

Typical of many benefit programs conducted by 4-H Clubs throughout the "Bay State" was a talent show given by the Breezy Hill 4-H Club of Hanson for the benefit of flood-stricken areas. A program of 26 specialty acts raised more than \$300 for the people in the flood-stricken areas and \$100 for Donald Robar, a former 4-H member who now has polio.

MINNESOTA

The 4-H Health Achievement Camp made the front cover and a feature article in the November issue of "Everybody's Health." The magazine is a publication of the Minnesota Tuberculosis and Health Association and is widely distributed.

MONTANA - 4-H Fire Prevention and Control School

Six Club members participated in a school sponsored cooperatively by the Montana association of Mutual Insurance companies, Montana Rural Fire Fighters Service, State Department of Public Instruction, U. S. Forest Service and the Montana Extension Service. Delegates were chosen on the basis of their superior work in the fire prevention and control phase of the 4-H safety activity. A major purpose was to train these 4-H members so they could return to their clubs and communities to lead in still more effective fire prevention and control.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Help for Volunteer Leaders

The new health program, Happy Minds, and junior leadership were the two topics of chief importance on the program of 4-H local leader meetings in New Hampshire in November. Six district meetings were scheduled, making it possible for all counties to participate. While the adults were discussing the health program and how to develop junior leaders, the junior leaders, with the guidance of the specialist in recreation, were actively learning how to conduct recreation. Responsibilities of Junior Leadership was also a topic of discussion.

NORTH CAROLINA - 4-H Electric Congress

More than 200 4-H Club members from 82 counties plus extension workers, local leaders and Friends of 4-H participated in this event under the leadership of L. R. Harrill and Eddie Coates, Extension Agricultural engineer. Demonstrations, illustrated talks and recognition were the prime features. This event is very similar to one conducted in the sister States of South Carolina and Virginia.

A follow up to this meeting was a program planning session involving the district agents and a number of county workers in western North Carolina, site of the Asheville Congress. W. B. Collins, Mary Harris, and G. L. Carter, Jr., laid the ground work by reviewing the present situation regarding tenure of membership, volunteer leadership, etc. The group then delineated main problems needing attention in the district. Plans were made for a follow-up program planning meeting involving all the agents. It is interesting to note increased activity of this kind generally.

NORTH DAKOTA - 4-H Clothing Revue

4-H clothing club girls from seventeen counties participated in the State Dress Revue held in Williston. Each girl had an opportunity to personally discuss her outfit with the judges. No scores were given and all girls received a participation ribbon. The selection of the State representatives for Dress Revue, Clothing Achievement, and the girl to receive a sewing machine was based on the excellence of the outfit and the girl's 4-H Club record.

OKLAHOMA - Personality Improvement

Fourteen area meetings for older club members were focused on personality improvement, with two boys and two girls from each county eligible to attend. In addition to discussions, each boy or girl presented a brief talk or demonstration on some improvement he had tried to make.

- Committee for Record Judging

Oklahoma is pleased with results of using a committee of county extension agents to judge State records. The State 4-H staff believes that in addition to getting a wise selection, the agents' understanding and appreciation of record keeping is improved.

PUERTO RICO - Achievement Day

We were interested in a copy of suggested program activities for National 4-H Achievement Day prepared by Adolfo Mayoral Reinat and his coworkers. Highlights of the pamphlet were:

1. A message from the Director,
2. A statement by the State 4-H Club staff,
3. A review of the 1955 4-H Club objectives and achievements,
4. Suggested program activities at different levels.

VERMONT - Forestry and Conservation Camp

This State-wide 4-H Camp is supported by the Associated Industries of Vermont, and features cooperation with Vermont's services in the conservation field in presenting information on forestry, wildlife and soil conservation. The usual educational activities were supplemented by the unusual recreation program, which featured sawing and chopping contests and a cross country race with map and compass.

VIRGINIA - Production and Marketing

One of the new programs aimed at incorporating more marketing in 4-H Club work is a sweet potato production and marketing program. It is similar to one conducted in South Carolina and Louisiana. Three members of the Federal Extension staff sat in on the original planning meeting and observed the final grading and marketing activity. They feel this is an excellent demonstration of joint effort of production, marketing and 4-H Club staff members.

WEST VIRGINIA - Exploring Projects for Older Members

The State is exploring new fields of interest for older 4-H Club members. Three new projects for the State are being set up for boys and girls 14 years old and over. They are: First Aid, first year; Home Nursing, second year; and Pre-Nursing, third year.

NEW LITERATURE

"A Guide to Study and Plan the 4-H Club Program in our County" (Indiana) was prepared by the State staff to get the ball rolling for even more effective program planning for 4-H. It combines many helpful devices for the use of the county worker.

"4-H Club Leaders Guide". Idaho has very kindly provided us with copies of this new publication which we mentioned briefly in the August issue of Ideas. We are enclosing one copy per State. Congratulations to Dan Warren and Lillian Johannesen for this excellent bulletin.

"Planning, Preparing and Arranging 4-H Exhibits" (New Hampshire) includes suggestions for group exhibits and floats, and the individual member's exhibit.

"Juvenile Delinquency" (New Jersey). In this leaflet, Phyllis Page Bradshaw, the Associate Extension Specialist in Human Relations, focuses on some of the challenging questions to be faced and gives pertinent information and references.

"Colorado 4-H First Aid Manual" series includes Unit I, Unit II and a Record Book. It is expected that local leaders in the project must have been previously trained by competent individuals or organizations such as the Red Cross, the Colorado Highway Patrol, U. S. Bureau of Mines, a physician or others.

"My Friends' Foods" (Hawaii) is a popular and an appropriate project in a location where many nationality groups are represented. Another unusual 4-H project in Hawaii is "Sea Shore Pole Fishing."

"Teen-Agers Go to Market" (Tennessee, 1954) has just been called to our attention. This leaflet gives suggestions for curb markets, marketing tours, and demonstrations related to marketing.

"4-H Tractor Operator's Contest" (Washington) gives the why's and the how's for three types of events: (1) Inspection-Starting-Warm-Up, (2) Driving-Backing, and (3) Tractor and Machinery Safety Demonstration.

"Secretary's Book", "4-H Clothing", "4-H Foods Preservation Project", "4-H Club Records for Clothing", "Food Preparation", "Food Preservation" (California) are recently reissued. In each case, a State advisory committee reviewed the project, helped set up requirements, recommended literature needs and developed the record sheet. Many interesting features are included in the bulletins. For instance, the clothing bulletin clearly outlines "Make - Do - Learn To" divisions as a part of the project.

"They Die so Young" is a new flier issued by the National Safety Council. This makes special reference to tractor accidents and points to 4-H work in tractor maintenance as a way to combat the problem.

In this connection, we might mention the film strip which the National Safety Council has on tractor safety. It is entitled, "Set Ups for Upsets," and is a 24-frame strip in black and white. A nominal fee is charged.

"It's Fun to Be a Model" is an attractive leaflet containing just what 4-H clothing girls and leaders are asking for regarding tips on modeling. Girls participating in dress revues, fashion shows and giving demonstrations can get information on how to look their best walking, standing, and being well groomed. The leaflet can be secured by writing to the Educational Division, Simplicity Pattern Company.

NEWS OF OUR COWORKERS

We were all shocked by the sudden death of J. B. "Tubby" Boggs of West Virginia. It came suddenly following a routine day, hard at work. Tubby served many years as the State Boys' Club Agent. His leadership was a prime factor in the development of the 4-H Camping program, which has been recognized as one of the most extensive in the country. He was responsible for servicing the 4-H Charting program which has contributed so much to the personal development of West Virginia boys and girls. We will always remember Tubby's contributions to the West Virginia 4-H publication "Treasures of the Trail."

Good wishes are going to T. A. Erickson, veteran 4-H leader, for two important anniversaries. When he recently celebrated his 84th birthday, the Minnesota 4-H staff helped make it a memorable occasion. Fortunately, it came during the State Fair. Just a few days later, "Dad" Erickson and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and were greeted by many devoted friends.

Don Clayton, formerly of South Dakota, and recreation leader for the last two National 4-H Camps, is now stationed in Chicago. He is co-producer and host for a daily children's show on Station WTTW. His mailing address is 1761 East Museum Drive, Chicago 37.

Roger L. Lawrence, formerly a member of the Iowa 4-H Club staff, is now doing resident teaching in the area of Extension methods.

Calvin S. Shirley is now State Club Agent in Louisiana. Minnesota informs us that Osgood T. Magnusson is Acting State 4-H Club Leader. Best wishes to both of these men on their new duties.

Two changes are noted in the YMW area. Richard B. Tompkinson is appointed in Indiana as assistant in rural youth and recreation. Charles W. Martin has resigned in Nebraska as Assistant State YMW Leader and has now joined the Minnesota Extension Staff as Family Life Specialist.

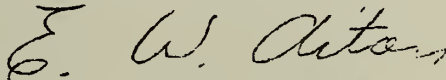
We join in welcoming two friends-from-the-field to the Federal Extension ranks. Loretta Cowden, formerly of Washington State, is the new Western field representative for the Division of Home Economics Programs. John B. Claar, formerly of Illinois, is the new chief of the Farm Management and Production Economics Branch in the Division of Agricultural Economics Programs.

We come to the close of 1955 with a feeling that it has been a good year for progress in 4-H Club work. As we count our many blessings, the opportunity of working with you is high on our list. Now, together, we can look forward to another year of "Improving Family and Community Living."

We would like to close with a quote which the Extension Director of Arkansas included in a recent letter to his staff:

"The man with vision and no work is a dreamer;
the man with work and no vision is a drudge;
the man with both vision and work, and who
has as his inspiration, the spirit of service,
is a man worthwhile and leaves an influence
behind him that time will not erase."

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. W. Aiton".

E. W. Aiton, Director
4-H Club and YMW Programs

Associate Leaders:

Tena Bishop
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Enclosures.

